## Tales of Hoffman-And Other Tales

By Harriette Underhill

is not because he wrote "Friendly other play like "Friendly Enemies." memies," but because his name is aron Hoffman. Now, there is Sam sipman! We fancy him plump and Week of Gilbert

not natured, and not at all high brow, ad very entertaining, just because his in't like that at all, because Aaron offman is like that, and not in the est like the beautiful, cadavorious nan whom we had pictured going about

We should have suspected that he aid: "Yes, I am Mr. Hoffman."

rushing our hands in front of our cyes the way Madge Kennedy does and Sullivan expert, for instance, as John McGhie, who is conducting the eyes the way Madge Kennedy does and having fully recovered our savoir faire, we said "Oh!"

from subject to subject and interrupted

Viagara Falls. "You know, I've been in this business, all my life and I've done burlesque,

Enemies.

se would think of a good line and then There were church choir companies, p our hands and groan.

comething, and Sam would say, 'No, Bostonians." ever can match that for Mann.

Well, we all got panicky, including Chamber Music Society The New York Chamber Music So-The wrote that play all over and started ciety will give the first of three con-

As on Heffman, who wrote "Friendly for a try-out in the metropolis, at any rate, and you know what happened. I is best known to American playgoers think they liked it. Don't you? think they liked it. Don't you? And as the author of "Le Retour de Jerusaif it hadn't been for George Cohen if it hadn't been for George Cohan we lem," which was acted in English by his pen, but the date is not easily fixed. siderable comment.

the read the plays of dead and which means "Down" appeared over the top of the Society of Dramatic Authors of the writes, "we of to-day are far from Alexander knew his work, and decided tive, and his aunt managed several my command in the manufacture from the old French contours and their he was the man who could best design then trical companies. Mr. McRae is Pays to understudy after all." That no doubt that my present splendid op-

# And Sullivan by

sampling operas for the season at the uled for this week.

Gilbert and Sullivan revivals are not as of the earth earthy, when we samed that he conducted his busimere theatrical events—they are theatregoers and non-theatregoers ss in an office on the fourteenth have been audiences at Gilbert and ther of the Times Building, instead of Sullivan productions—professional and a studio in Washington Mews; but amateur that have swept the country den to stepped from the elevator and from season to season, and every time to his office we carried with us the there is a new Gilbert and Sullivar sion of a tall, foreign looking youth, revival the old folk and the youngest with black hair brushed straight back generation join the regular theatreorn a high, roble brow. And then we goers of the family, and everybody ere ushered into Mr. Hoffman's office, compares notes on the companies of and because a pleasant, well-fed, up-to- yesterday, to-day and forever! The its person greeted us we said: "Our last New York Gilbert and Sullivan ntment is with Mr. Hoffman, revival was the all-star Casino organibless." And the up-to-date person zation of the Brady-Shubert forces. Before that came the "H. M. S. Pina-We stood up under the blow without fore" revival at the Hippodrome.

present revivals at the Park Theatre, go back to the J. O. Duff company and to the early history of Gilbert and "Now," said Mr. Hoffman, "sit to the early history of Gilbert and Sullivan in America. Gilbert and Sullivan had been collaborating for seven unity very kind of you, but I'm not years, and had already produced a good talker," and then Mr. Hoffman Sorcerer" and "H. M. S. Pinafore," "Thespis," "Trial by Jury," "The He talked along, skipping lightly which had not been a success at first, but which eventually ran 700 nights at the London Opéra Comique, when saly by the roar of the new subway, at the London Opera Comique, when New York in 1879 and produced "H. M. S. Pinafore" here. Lacking international copyright laws, to protect the musical comedy, vaudeville and every-thing, as well as serious drama. I America every aspirant for manarights of the English authors in must tell you about writing 'Friendly gerial fame and dollars was free to produce the reigning success of Lon-"Sam and I were so used to working don and New York without a penny to pay in royalty, and "H. M. S. Pina-in the world to write that play. First fore" swept the country like wildfire.

would think of one, and every time juvenile companies, and "H. M. S. either of us would think of a new Pinafore" flooded the stage with enomedy line both of us would throw tirely raw recruits. Some of the better church choir companies clung to-"There, now you've done it.' Sam gether and for years their annual "resould cry. 'There's a corking line for vivals" of Gilbert and Sullivan were Auis Mann and where's one for Sam features of every theatrical season Bernard? Get busy now and think up throughout the United States. The u good a one for Bernard. Remem- most famous of them, the Boston Ideal er, "Friendly enemies" must not be Company and the Chicago Church Choir Company, two aggregations of "So'l would set to work and think splendid singers, combined as "The

fron't do. It isn't clever enough.' To secure the American rights for as finally he would come out with a their next opera, after their experithate of a line and then I would groan once with "H. M. S. Pinafore," Gilbert as ay, 'That's for Bernard. Now, we and Sullivan brought out "The Pirates of Penzance: or, The Slave to Duty," "And that's the way we wrote the first in New York in 1879, and the 147. And after it was finished we next year, in London, it ran for nearly sought we had a surefire hit, and we 400 nights. "The Mikado; or. The rat it on without even the usual Town of Titipu," was first announced mount of trepidation, and after the in 1885 and proved the most generally int night in Atlantic City" (at least, popular of the operas in England and think he said Atlantic City)" every of lasting popularity here. For the me earth had suggestions to make. present revivals of "The Mikado" and "Cutithere! Cutit there! The first "Pirates of Penzance" the Society of et ought to be where the third is, and American Singers have recruited he versa. You've got a great idea, heavily from the all-star Casino cast, but it's all worked out wrong. Now, if Gilbert and Sullivan experts all.

rehearse it so that we could use the certs at Acolian Hall on Tuesday evenwersion in New York.

"And then along came little Georgie Cohan. You know who George is? Yes, I thought so. He's a fairly well known ktor. Well, George came over to see may play, and when the curtain went in play, and we well well well went in play in The other two concerts will take place The other two concerns at Aeolian Hall on Tuesday evenings, stange a line, a word or a syllable.'

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# Donnay's "Georgette

perel looking.

You would fancy that he lived in Triendly Enemies, and then, possibly, Jerusalem during her last engage only recently given to the public. You would fancy that he friendly Enemies, and then, possibly, or, at least, in our audiences would not have been so ment in this city. He is an officer of tinguished literary and art societies

American Singers but I am still hopeful," Notwithstand- our day."

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Maurice Donnay was born in Paris in cess of the part in France.

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### Who's Who in Current Plays

Maurice Donnay, author of "Georg. Writing. His first plays were lost to history, as no conies are obtainable at in the theatre of J. Monroe Hewlett as history, as no copies are obtainable at in the theatre of J. Monroe Hewlett as have intense illusion blending realism was able to persuade either relative until a real part on Broadway should tains the names of several celebrated three scenes in this play, is an architect pends greatly on lights. and decorator by profession, but his

that his hair was long and brushed and Mr. Hoffman went over to the the Legion of Honor, a member of thesis on infidelity is aptly summed up suaded Hewlett to turn his attention to was spent in the atmosphere of the rôles in the theatre. self have often revived with so much induced him to make his first trial in the American playwright. esprit, or else complacently repeated, this line of work. His scenery for Strange as it may seem to the lay-M. Donnay when asked by a French verts us; it appears to us as a social one of the first direct efforts in this ably successful in his respective line. The life of an understudy is not one the stars of "The Midnight Frelic," be-

The Society of American Singers, ing this fact his plays have long been In "Georgette Lemeunier" Donnay Bakst, Gordon Craig and Max Reinforthis ability and energy. Sir Charles a chance—the chance—may come. Gentween each picture and his fee was an conspicuous on the continental stage. writes knowingly of social conditions hardt. Like Edmond Jones, he depends Wyndham insisted that young McRae erally it doesn't. Park Theatre, selected "The Mikado." and Charles Frohman during his life. It is a story of the bourgeoisie, and upon extreme simplicity to achieve his gain his knowledge of life through "I started my stage career as unwas a clause in the contract which Now "Pirates of Penzance" is schedNow as a clause in the contract which followed with in desting the safe escort home of cial strata. Rejane made a great suc- gauzes rather than on canvas, and thus followed suit in declining any aid in ing season. Then I played in several the diminutive actor in case he fell

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journalist how many plays he had necessity, yes, a shameful but logical country toward the newer art of scenic of dramatic art, opposed the young of unadulterated bliss, for it's all work gan his theatrical career at the age written replied with naïvetté, "Lone, tonsequence of marriage as it is most and lighting eneets.

Lut I am still honoful." Normitt tons

frequently practised in the society of Hewlett is not a realist, nor is he an summers, his thought turned most natsaying. Then, too, there's the oft with a little East Side motion picture.

Lut I am still honoful." Normitt tons

frequently practised in the society of Hewlett is not a realist, nor is he an summers, his thought turned most natsaying. Then, too, there's the oft with a little East Side motion picture. ultra-modernist in the sense of Leon urally to the stage as a suitable outlet kindled and rarely satisfied hope that hall. His act was to sing a song behe is able by the adroit use of lighting establishing his British nephew in the important parts and pieces. But once asleep,

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inheritance. His childhood confined largely to leading romantic went out for its three weeks'

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Lemunier" at the Brief and other compatriots the call The production of the big spectacular to obtain unusual results. In "Free-years in land surveying for his gov- Concert' and the two in The Woman that Mr. McRue served a number of this time for the two leads in The French Theatre to write overcame every obstacle and he at once turned his pen to stage be at once turned his pen to stage

a designer and painter of scenery. Hew with idealism. Like the famous Conti. that in such capacities he was a round come along and to spurn all underdone by the French Theatre du Vieux But the later record of twenty plays. lett, who is responsible for the twenty-nental scene designers, Hewlett de-Bronson Howard gave the youth a While thus engaged in sitting my fate letter of introduction to the late again overtook me, but this time it The histrionic gifts of Bruce McRae, Charles Frohman, who stood sponsor came in a form so irresistible that "Le Menage de Moliere" is also from occasional productions have caused conhero of David Belas 's production of for his dramatic debut. Since this time succumbed without a struggle, for I Would have used a new version of Mmc. Simone as "The Return to it was written some time since, but It was the late John Alexander, the Belasco to the Lyceum Theatre to stage levers than any other actor upon feminine parts in the 'All-Star' cast and then, normally some his experience having been of the 'Out There' company when it It is worthy of note that Donnay's artist, and Maude Adams who first perof inheritance. His captured is experience having been of the Out There company when it And Mr. Hollman went over to the use Legion of Honor, a member of in his dedication to Moliere in this the theatrs. Hewlett had gone to Paris London stage, where his uncle. Sir Von would fancy and when the great nigrouphlood ruby.

You would fancy and when the great nigrouphlood ruby.

Reassure yourself, monsieur, to study decorating. Miss Adams and Charles Wyndham, was singularly acand serene. You would fancy and when the great pigeon-blood ruby of the Society of Dramatic Authors of he writes, "we of to-day are far from Alexander knew his work, and his aunt managed several ing woman in "The Matinee Hero," "It way. And it was as the result of the second and the button, the French Academy and a member play. "Reassure yourself, monsieur," to study decorating. Miss Adams and Charles Wyndham, was singularly ac-

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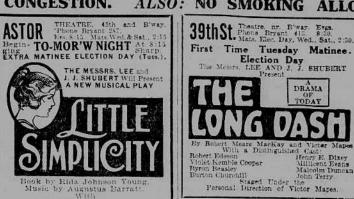
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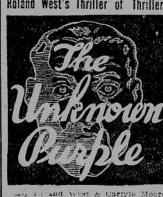
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